

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 IO-11

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SS-15 USIA-06 SAI-01 ACDA-05 /090 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9299

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SP, UK, EEC

SUBJECT: THE TUC AND SPAIN. CONTD.

RE: LONDON 1993

SUMMARY - THE TUC'S CURRENT POLICY TOWARD SPAIN APPEARS
TO BE OPERATING AT TWO LEVELS. IN A FORMAL WAY. TUC
HEADQUARTERS VIEWS THE GENERAL UNION OF WORKERS (UGT) AS
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ITS FRATERNAL COUNTERPART IN SPAIN. ON THE OTHER HAND.

INDIVIDUAL AFFILIATES OF THE TUC APPEAR TO BE GIVING INFORMAL OR "DE FACTO" RECOGNITION NOT ONLY TO THE UGT BUT TO OTHER GROUPS IN SPAIN, INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS. THIS IS CONSISTENT WITH THE OVERALL TUC GOAL IN SUPPORT OF TRADE UNITY IN SPAIN WHICH TENDS TO MELD THESE TWO APPROACHES TOGETHER. THE RECENT TRADE UNION CONFERENCE ON SPAIN HELD IN LONDON. FEBRUARY 14 PROVIDED AN EASY DEVICE TO MERGE THE TWO LEVELS. NON-COMMUNIST TRADE UNIONISTS IN SPAIN, HOWEVER, ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE ENCOURAGED BY THE TUC APPROACH. END SUMMARY.

1. MICHAEL WALSH, DEPUTY HEAD OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT, INSISTED WHEN WE TALKED WITH HIM RECENTLY THAT THE TUC CONTINUES TO MAINTAIN ITS LONG AND CLOSE FRATERNAL TIES WITH THE UGT, ALTHOUGH HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SOME TUC LEADERS BELIEVE THE UGT HAS AN AGING LEADERSHIP WHICH HAS BEEN TOO FAR AWAY FROM THE SPANISH SCENE. AT THE SAME TIME, WALSH DENIED THAT THE TUC IS IN CONTACT WITH THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS OR THAT IT SUPPORTS THEIR ENTRY INTO THE ETUC. HE ACKNOWLEDGED, HOWEVER, THAT TUC HEADQUARTERS IS NOT TOO WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE SPANISH SITUATION AND IS EXPECTING TO SEND A DELEGATION TO THAT COUNTRY SHORTLY. WALSH ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE LONDON CONFERENCE ON SPAIN ON FEBRUARY 14 WAS NOT A TUC-SPONSORED AFFAIR, BUT HE COULD NOT ADEQUATELY EXPLAIN WHY THERE WERE NEARLY 20 TUC GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS LISTED AS SPONSORS -- ABOUT HALF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COUNCIL.

2. WALSH ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE TUC SUPPORTS A UNIFIED UNION MOVEMENT IN SPAIN, BUT HE DID NOT DEMUR WHEN WE SUGGESTED THAT THIS POLICY IS MOST LIKELY TO RESULT IN THE DOMINATION OF THE SPANISH TRADE UNION MOVEMENT BY THE EXTREME LEFT AND PARTICULARLY THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS. WALSH, WHO WAS PRESENT DURING THE MEETING OF THE UGT DELEGATION WITH THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE IN EARLY FEBRUARY, SAID THAT THE UGT GROUP MADE NO COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE TUC'S LEANING TOWARDS THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS. HE ADDED, DID THEY ALLEGE THAT THE TUC WAS IN SUPPORT OF THE SWC'S ENTRY INTO ETUC.

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3. THE FEBRUARY LONDON CONFERENCE, WHICH WILL BE REPORTED IN DETAIL IN A SEPARATE CABLE, PROVIDED A FACILE DEVICE TO DEMONSTRATE THE TWO LEVELS OF TUC POLICY. BY DISCLAIMING OFFICIAL TUC SPONSORSHIP, A TUC OFFICIAL COULD SIMPLY TELL US, AS HE DID. THAT THE CONFERENCE SPONSORS -- 20 OF WHOM WERE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS -- DID SO AS INDIVIDUALS. IN FACT, RAY BUCKTON, A MEMBER OF

THE TUC GENERAL COUNCIL AND ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE CONFERENCE, RATHER INCREDIBLY DESCRIBED IT AS A "SPONTANEOUS HAPOENING." BUCKTON INADVERTENTLY GAVE THE GAME AWAY. HOWEVER, WHEN HE ADDED THAT THE CONFERENCE FORMAT OF INDIVIDUAL TUC SPONSORS "WAS THE ONLY WAY WE COULD INVITE MARCELINO COMACHO, THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS LEADER," WITHOUT DOING VIOLENCE TO THE TUC'S OFFICIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UGT. IN THE EVENT, IT WAS CAMACHO WHO DOMINATED THE PRESS COVERAGE, EVEN THOUGH COVERAGE WAS VERY SPARSE EXCEPT FOR THE "MORNING STAR" WHICH FEATURED CAMACHO AND JACK JONES IN A THREE COLUMN FRONT-PAGE FRATERNAL EMBRACE.

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4. THE TWENTY TUC SPONSORS INCLUDED A SURPRISINGLY BROAD
RIGHT-LEFT SPECTRUM OF TUC LEADERS. EVEN MORE SURPRI- #
ANTI-COMMUNIST OF TUC LEADERS, FRANK
CHAPPLE, WAS ONE OF THEM, ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT ACTUALLY
ATTEND THE CONFERENCE. HE TOLD US THAT HE SPONSORED THE
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CONFERENCE BECAUSE HE STRONGLY BELIEVES IN SUPPORTING THE
RETURN OF FREE TRADE UNIONISM TO SPAIN. OTHER TRADE
UNION SPONSORS INCLUDED JACK JONES, HUGH SCANLON, JOE
GORMLEY, CLIVE JENKINS, TERRY PARRY, TOM JACKSON, JIM
SLATER, GEOFFREY DRAIN, BILL KEYS, LES BUCK, ALLEN SAPPER,
LORD ALLEN, DAVID BASNETT, BILL SIRS. KEN GILL, GEORGE
SMITH AND CYRIL PLANT.

5. COMMENT: WE ARE TROUBLED THAT UNLESS THE TREND IN
TUC POLICY IS REVERSED, IT WILL MEAN THAT A POWERFUL TRADE
UNION MOVEMENT IS ENHANCING COMMUNIST AIMS IN SPAIN. WHAT
IS DISTURBING IS THAT SO MANY MODERATE BRITISH TRADE UNION
LEADERS APPEAR TO BE PASSIVE ABOUT THE POLICY OF UNITY AT
ANY COST. IN VIEW OF LEN MURRAY'S VISIT WITH AFL-CIO
PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO APPRISE THE
AFL-CIO OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS SO THAT, POSSIBLY. SPAIN
MIGHT BE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION. WE SHALL,
OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THE EVOLUTION OF THE TUC
POSITION ON SPAIN AND WILL BE DISCUSSING IT WITH THEIR
LEADERS, INCLUDING JACK JONES.

SPIERS

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